

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A spacer configured to be secured to a panel of a predetermined thickness with a bore, comprising:

 a first piece having a generally tubular body portion of a preselected first piece height, H_1 , with a first end and a second end, the second end having a preselected included first piece angle, θ with respect to an axis that passes through a bore of the first piece;

 a second piece having a first end, an annular ridge which is located adjacent to the first end and a flange which is located adjacent to the annular ridge that extends radially outwardly from the axis, the first end having a preselected second piece height, H_2 , a and the preselected included angle, θ with respect to the axis that passes through the bore of the first piece, and a seat which is adapted to receive the a head of a fastener; and

 wherein the second end of the first piece is sandwiched between the first end of the second piece and the annular ridge; and

wherein the preselected included angle ranges from about 80 degrees to about 130 degrees.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The spacer of claim 1 wherein H_2 has a second piece height from is about 20% to about 40% of the first piece height of H_1 .

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): The spacer of claim 1 wherein the flange is secured to the panel with an effective amount of an adhesive.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The spacer of claim 1 wherein the first end of the first piece is secured to the panel by curling the first end of the first piece into the panel.

Claim 7 (original): The spacer of claim 1 wherein the flange has a preselected shape selected from the group consisting of a circle, an oval and non-circular shapes.

Claim 8 (original): A spacer configured to be secured to a panel of a predetermined thickness with a bore, comprising:

a first piece having a generally tubular body portion of a preselected first piece height, H_1 , with a first end and a second end, the second end having a preselected included first piece angle, θ with respect to an axis that passes through a bore of the first piece;

a second piece having a first end, an annular ridge which is located adjacent to the first end and a flange which is located adjacent to the annular ridge that extends radially outwardly from the axis, the first end having a preselected second piece height, H_3 , a and the preselected included angle, θ with respect to the axis that passes through the bore of the first piece, and a seat which is adapted to receive the head of a fastener;

wherein the second end of the first piece is sandwiched between the first end of the second piece and the annular ridge; and

wherein H_3 has a second piece height from is about 20% to about 40% of the first piece height of H_1 ; and

wherein the preselected included angle ranges from about 80 degrees to about 130 degrees.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The spacer of claim 8 wherein the flange is secured to the panel with an effective amount of an adhesive.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The spacer of claim 8 wherein the first end of the first piece is secured to the panel by curling the first end of the first piece into the panel.

Claim 13 (original): The spacer of claim 8 wherein the flange has a preselected shape selected from the group consisting of a circle, an oval and non-circular shapes.